Weston super Mare
near Bristol, May 18th 1847 Tuesday

My dear Mr. May.

Your packet of books & letter dated April I have not the letter here announced as to be forwarded on the 5th of May by ~~a sailing vessel~~ the Anglo Saxon reached me on Saturday last May 15th & on the following day arrived ~~for~~ by post your letter dated Apl. 29th: so I presume both came by the Cambria! The parcel was forwarded by Messrs Geo. Wright & Co & cost only the Railway carriage. Many thanks for both favours. I do not wish to reciprocate a compliment, as such, but I can truly declare that great is the pleasure ~~& profit~~ and information I derive from, & much the value I set upon, your correspondence.

I am however much concerned that I can do little more than acknowledge your late letters; for on leaving Bristol yesterday for this sea bathing place 20 miles off, to bring my daughter hither, I ascertained at the P. Office that the letters must leave Bristol for Liverpool to go to the U.S. this day; and I have strong doubts if I shall be able to get this posted in time to day. However I will hope for the best, but regret my absence from home will disable me from inclosing some papers I desired to send. You will long since have ascertained that Douglass's ill treatment soon spread thro' the length & breadth of our country by help of the Times & M. Chronicle. It really was a lucky occurrence for the cause, and I rather wondered that F.D. suffered so much distress as was reported, on the first learning the disgrace intended to have been put upon him. Thousands have heard of him, & had their attention turned to the prejudice against colour who otherwise would have known nothing of either.

When you see the Inquirer of last Saturday May 15th you will observe (by a letter I sent the Ed. signed a "Member of the B. & F. A. S. Soc." & forwarding "C's" second letter,) that we are ~~not~~ at our post on the subject of the Slave holding V. President. If I go to London to anniversary next week, it

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with the solely in relation to this question. But I do not expect the Comm.ⁿ will admit of any allusion to the Slaveholder V.P. Mr Armstrong wrote to you I believe by the 4ᵗʰ of May Packet, & said what he was aiming at in our "Unit.ⁿ Chr.ⁿ Union" at the Gloucester Meeting. ~~Its But~~ you must not expect quite so much ~~as his~~ *action* as I imagine, ~~his~~ Mr A's statements might lead you to anticipate. Mr A. is rather im*pulsive*, and we all find ourselves somewhat hesitating in going the lengths at which he aims, on many subjects.

I greatly fear the Inquirer will not long exist, Mr Hincks is so badly sustained in ~~it~~ his work by wealthy & influential Unitarians. He cannot afford to labour for nothing. Our leading Unit.ˢ dislike the paper. This is sad. In the last C. Reformer, I wrote a short Critical Notice of Parker's Vol. on Am. Slavery, & *meant* to have sent you a copy, but it is at home.

It was my *private* opinion of H Clapp I did not like to have repeated, not the replies he made to questions of mine in company. I was perfectly satisfied he was incorrect in saying Mr Garrison never publicly advocated Disobedience at home. He is in great favour, (Clapp I mean) with Mrs Richardson the projector of the purchase of F.D's freedom, & the person who is now very active in getting up a subs.ⁿ for a press for F.D. *Elihu Burritt* & H Clapp Jr are two of her advisers as to the best mode of laying out the money for D's advantage, whether in the purchase, or only in the control of a Press. I should doubt if they were the best counsellors that could be obtained!

All you say about F. D. is very interesting to us. I shall look forward with curiosity to his future course. His speech at the London Tavern is just published, & is an excellent one. I purpose sending you a letter I lately had from Mrs Richardson, showing how she is determined to work with *all parties*. She corresponds with Lewis Tappan, Mrs Grimke that was, Mr Goodell, Beman &c. I suspect her sympathies are with the Liberty party. but the less *parties* are named here the better. Sturge & other anti-*Garrison* abolit.ˢ seem very ready to fraternize with Douglass, *as an individual*, not as an ally of the League, & the "American A. S. Soc." The letter however of Mr. [illegible] R. is not with me — I am sorry D. mentioned the conversation about G. Thompson. I only heard of it from him. I believe you know my opinion about the League, and how unfit a person G. T. is to be President. He carries no moral influence with him. [illegible] is totally here, & I am sure, thoroughly different from what it would be in America.

I am amused at the interest you take in the Howitt dispute — I have never paid the least attention to it, & know of no one who has. The squabbles of Authors, Editors, booksellers &c are so common, & often that without some peculiar interest is felt in the individuals, so few give themselves the trouble even to learn the nature of the dispute. Usually there are faults on both sides. Mr. Howitt, I hear, is an irritable man, one likely to quarrel. I never saw him till the 1st of April when it was curious, that Douglass was the person to introduce me to him. I did not desire any introduction, but Mr. H. came into a private room where I was talking with D. on the night of the soirée at the London Tavern — F. D. with proper politeness introduced me.

Mr. Wallcutt has sent me an account of my payment for the Liberator. I have written to him requesting him to let my subsn. be for one year for myself, & for one year on behalf of Mr. J. L. Lawford (Mr. Armstrong's son in law) 34 Cambridge Street, Hyde Park, London.

~~In the Lib~~ Thanks for your services in this case. In the Liberator of April 16 is an article I have been obliged to cut out, but too late to avoid a dread of the paper which will not be soon avoided. I had lent it to ~~[illegible]~~ Miss Parkes to see an extract from a letter of mine (to you I believe) relating to the French translation of Douglass by his daughter. She found it in that number containing a very disgusting statement, & gave me the paper privately, saying she did not like to let it lie on her table lest even her servants might see it, — much less would she like it to fall into her daughter's hands. Does this appear forbidding to you? If it do there must be an extraordinary difference in sentiment between your country & ours! I believe that here 49 ladies out of 50 would take Mrs Parker's view of it.

Mrs Chapman has written to my daughter about the sale of Dr Channing's portrait. I doubt not, if I do not myself become the purchaser, I shall easily find one. It is not yet arrived. I shall be glad when you are able to write to me about my tract. The notice of it in the Ann. Report of the Mass. A.S. Soc. was very gratifying to me — Your political news, acct. of Dr Gannett &c. greatly interested me; you did not send me your prophecy about the [illegible] at Paris. Your paper is excellent, & far better than this; and your writing beautifully distinct. With all my infirmities, I can yet read the Liberator by candle light without glasses, so you will suppose your letters do not embarrass me much. My daughter is greatly obliged by Mrs. Child's volumes, & by the Anti-Sl. Almanack & Report — Mrs Chapman sent such copies of the "Church as it is" — Miss Carpenter has given me the pamphlet on the same process.

You will find this letter I fear rather illegible. I have risen early to write it at the hotel where I am staying being determined to do all I can to let you hear of the arrival of your last letter.

My daughter has Mrs. Richardson's letter here so I will inclose it, & I am glad to find on perusing your last which she also had that I have adverted to all the points touched upon in it. And now my dear Sir, I must conclude my too imperfect scrawl; were I satisfied it would reach you by this packet I should not however [illegible] its shortcomings. With my daughter's kind regards to yourself, Mrs. May & daughter, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

J. B. Estlin.

Recd. June 7.

Rev. d Saml. May,
care of
Samuel May Esq
Boston
United States.

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